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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/758,691

01/15/2004

Andreas Wieners

RW-150

4965

7590

04/26/2006

Friedrich Kueffner
Suite 910
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHONG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,691

Applicant(s)

WIENERS, ANDREAS

Examiner

Phong H. Nguyen

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/03/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikawa (6,835,346 B1).

The cited Ikawa above is a WO 01/36179 which was published on 05/25/2001.

Regarding claims 1 and 5, Ikawa teaches a cutting tool comprising a blade holder having a cutting blade 4C, a robot controlled device for controlling the movement of the blade holder and a distant sensor. See Fig. 1.

Regarding claims 7, 8 and 10, Ikawa teaches a method for making grooves on an airbag comprising the step of providing a blade holder having a cutting blade 4C, a robot controlled device for controlling the movement of the blade holder and a distant sensor. See Fig. 1.

It is to be noted that airbags are made of thermoplastic.

It is to be noted that a circuit for integrating the distant sensor into the cutting tool is inherent in the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikawa.

Ikawa teaches the invention substantially as claimed except for a specific shape of a distant sensor housing for housing the distant sensor. Providing the distant sensor housing a specific shape for artistic purpose is routine skill in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a cylindrical housing for the distant sensor since such practice is routine skill in the art.

5. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikawa in view of Kapteyn et al. (US Pub. 2001/0022212 A1), hereinafter Kapteyn.

Ikawa teaches using a laser displacement sensor and CCD camera to measure a depth of a groove. Kapteyn teaches using an inductive sensor to measure a depth of a groove. See the Abstract. Using a laser displacement sensor and CCD camera or an inductive sensor to measure a depth of a groove is art equivalent. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to replace the laser displacement sensor and CCD camera in the Ikawa cutting tool with the inductive sensor as taught by Kapteyn since they are art equivalence and such practice is routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

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6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nicholas (6,453,535), Bauer et al. (5,883,356), Bauer (5,744,776), Robin et al. (GB276354 A) and Nicholas et al. (US Pub. 2001/003,7998) teaches cutting tools for making grooves on an airbag of general interest.

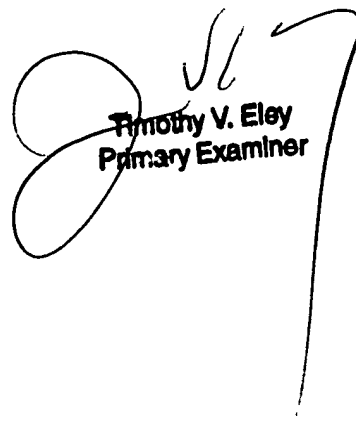
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phong H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PN: 

April 18, 2006


Timothy V. Eley
Primary Examiner